



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**CANADIAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING CASE**

**Re: U.S. v. Sebastien Berard**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, New Hampshire Attorney General Peter Heed, the Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, NH Drug Task Force Commander James Norris, Manchester, NH Police Chief John Jaskolka and Bow, NH Police Chief Rod Forey announced that, Sebastien Berard, age 27, of St. Elie D'Orferd, Quebec, Canada, pleaded guilty today in United States District Court in Concord to an indictment charging him with Conspiracy to Distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana.

Chief U.S. District Court Judge Paul Barbadoro detained Berard without bail pending a sentencing hearing to be held on January 5, 2004. The defendant faces a potential sentence of 40 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$2,000,000.

The case resulted from the seizure of a tractor trailer truck operated by Mr. Berard in Brockton, Massachusetts in October 2002, which had come through New Hampshire from Canada. Approximately 130 pounds of marijuana and \$96,000 were discovered. The truck and the money are currently the subject of a civil forfeiture action in United States District Court.

Commenting on the plea, U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "The flood of high grade marijuana coming from Canada into this country must be stopped. The excellent cooperative investigative work by federal, state and local agencies in this case is an prime example of how we can do it."

The indictment was the result of an investigation by the New Hampshire Drug Task Force, Drug Enforcement Administration, Concord and Manchester, NH Police Departments, Massachusetts State Police, and the assistance of the Bow, NH Police Department and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Clyde R.W. Garrigan.